Statement

(Rs. Crores)

States	Overall Surplus(+)/ Deficit (—) as in the Budgets 1986-87
Andhra Pradesh	—137·71
Assam	—38·25
Bihar	+87·84
Gujarat	—31·21
Haryana	—26·74
Himachal Pradesh	—0·87
Jammu & Kashmir	+5·51
Karnataka	—43·55
Kerala	—59·40
Madhya Pradesh	—12·30
Maharashtra	—36·21
Manipur	+10·18
Meghalaya	—0·07
Nagaland	+8·00
Orissa	—16·35
Punjab	—
Rajasthan	—77·41
Sikkim	—1·10
Tamil Nadu	—4·79
Tripura	—5·35
Uttar Pradesh	—88·84
West Bengal	+21·95
TOTAL:	—446·67
	(—580·15) (+133·48)

Relief in customs duty on newsprint

1110. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of newsprint, specially indigenous newsprint, have gone beyond the reach of newspaper establishments and some of the newspapers may face closure due to the heavy escalation of newsprint prices; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give some relief in customs duty on newsprint during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Central Government has allowed the price of indigenous newsprint to be raised by an amount found reasonable by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices' study, keeping in view the relevant factors. The price of newsprint is just one element in the total cost of a newspaper. The price rise in indigenous newsprint has taken place after a period of about 20 months.

(b) Import duty on newsprint has recently been reduced to Rs. 550 per tonne. There is no proposal at present to alter the rates of customs duty on newsprint.

Proposals for cooperative spinning mills from Maharashtra

1111. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government in clearing the cooperative spinning mills of Maharashtra;

(b) what is the number of such proposals at present pending with the Central Government; and

(c) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) As per the existing locational policy guidelines, the issue of fresh industrial licences in the spinning sector, are in the ordinary course restricted to category 'A' backward areas. However, in those States where there are no such areas, fresh licences may be considered in category 'B' backward areas also. While the above restrictions would normally apply to projects in the cooperative spinning sector also, such cases are to be considered on the merits of each case after taking into account the requirement of yarn by the handloom weavers, production of cotton in the area and the existing spinning capacity in the State concerned.

(b) and (c) There are no proposals for the grant of an industrial licence for the setting up of new cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra State pending with Government.

Calcutta High Court judgement on the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited

1112. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:
SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta High Court has, in a judgement delivered on March 14, 1986, ruled that as the business activities conducted by the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited attracted the provision of the Prize Chit and Money (Civilian) Banning Act, 1978, the Company should discontinue its business and submit to Government winding up plans;

(b) if so, whether the closure of the Company would lead to the loss of jobs by a large number of employees at present working in the Company; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government are contemplating to take over the Company to protect the interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A single judge of the Calcutta High Court in a judgement delivered on 14th March, 1986 in respect of a petition filed by M/s Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd. has held that the activities of the Company fall squarely within the jurisdiction of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. The Company had filed an appeal before a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court against the above judgement.

A large number of representations have been received from employees, field agents etc. mentioning that closure of the Company would lead to the loss of jobs and that the Company may be nationalised. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

1113. [*Transferred to the 9th May, 1986*].

Deaths due to roof collapse of Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank

1114. SHRI V GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the roof of Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank at Tuticorin had collapsed recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the number of persons killed injured;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the matter; and

(d) whether any compensation has been paid by the bank to the next of kin of victims killed/injured; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?